



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 OCTOBER 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The election of moderate southerner Phan Khac Suu as chairman of the constituent assembly should reduce the danger of an early showdown between the government and the large southern representation in the assembly. Among those defeated by Suu was a much more militant advocate of southern regionalism.

Even Suu, however, felt obliged last week to express his concern over "excessive" northern influence in the government. The cabinet crisis brought on by this divisive issue is still hanging fire in Saigon.

2. Soviet Union

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3. Cuba

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4. Congo

Mobutu has put former prime minister Mulamba under house arrest for refusing to accept the post of defense minister and for disclosing his defiance to the press.

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5. Cambodia

Sihanouk's growing realization that the Communists are not going to score an early victory in Vietnam is prompting him to further moves toward an accommodation with the West.

An indication of a more relaxed Cambodian attitude toward the US was the ease with which Pan American Airways negotiated landing rights last month.

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At the same time, differences between the Cambodians and the Chinese have come to the surface. Cambodia has been particularly upset over Peking's refusal to back an expanded International Control Commission for the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, a move Phnom Penh has proposed in the hope of keeping the war from its territory.

6. Thailand

The Vietnamese community in northeast Thailand is quiet and there is no sign of disturbances in connection with the President's visit.

The unfailingly courteous Thais have pointed out the President's reception in Bangkok may be subdued. Thais consider any display of high spirits in the presence of the King to be in bad taste. The mood will be quiet cordiality.

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